

Objectives for Today

- To inform you of the status of EMS in ND

Today's Discussion

A Crisis and Crossroad in Rural North
Dakota Emergency Medical Services

Rural EMS Improvement Project

SafeTech Solutions

April 2010 – June 2011

Conclusion

Rural EMS in North Dakota faces a growing and potentially dangerous crisis.

On the surface, this crisis is about declining volunteerism and the difficulties associated with ensuring ambulances are appropriately staffed and able to respond when needed.

At a deeper level, this crisis is about navigating a major change in how rural EMS is understood, envisioned, valued and funded.

How Rural EMS Developed

- Without a mandate
- Locally
- Organically
- Without significant funding
- Volunteer subsidy

EMS in North Dakota

- 86 QRUs
- 134 ambulance services
- 70,000 calls per year
- 59,000 calls handled by 14 services
- 11,000 calls handled by 120 services

EMS in North Dakota

- 14 services respond to 650+ calls per year
- 110 ambulance services using volunteer staffing
- 50 services respond to <1 call per week

EMS meeting needs?

- Limited qualitative data
- Anecdotally, public, dispatchers, physicians, hospitals, law enforcement agree that EMS is meeting needs
- No major quality issues

Volunteer subsidy disappearing

Why?

- Socioeconomic changes
- Demographic changes
- Changing attitudes about community
- Increasing demands (calls, distance, transfers, preparedness)

Need for Workers: Biggest challenge

- 35% have difficulty filling shifts
- 24 is average roster size
- 5 is smallest roster size
- 76 is largest roster size
- 46% of members on rosters are inactive
- 38% frequently take call
- Some with only 2-5 active on roster

(Leading to other challenges)

Results

- Response delays
- Reports of regular response failures (2-3 month)
- Services operating part time
- Crews tired

Oil/Energy Impact

a **crisis within a crisis** with all the characteristics of a **slow disaster**, presenting dangers to patients, providers and the public.

Oil/Energy Impact Activity

- 205 drilling rigs
- 6,500 active wells
- 535,000 barrels per day
- 2,000 new wells to come on line in 2012
- 1,500- 1,900 new wells per year up to 21,250 wells (NDSU, 2010)
- Possibly 50,000 new wells (Bismarck Tribune, 2010)

Oil/Energy Impact EMS

Increasing Demand

- **Four year increases**

– McKenzie	100+ % (228-457)
– New Town	86%
– Halliday	55%
– Killdeer	50%
– Williston	46%
– Parshall	41%
– Grenora	32%
– Ray	30%
– Tioga	27%
– Stanley	24%
– Plaza	0%